

**CLAIMS**

- 5                   1. A spool filled with two or more elongated elements wound in parallel and in several windings upon said spool, characterized in that the distance between two neighboring elongated elements, as measured along a line parallel to the axis of the spool, is not more than 10 mm along 90% of the length of each elongated element.
- 10                   2. A spool according to claim 1 wherein said distance is smaller than 5 mm.
3. A spool according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said elongated elements are steel elements.
- 15                   4. A spool according to claim 3 wherein said steel elements are steel wires.
5. A spool according to claim 3 wherein said steel elements are steel cords.
- 20                   6. A spool according to claim 5 wherein one of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a first twist direction, and wherein another of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a second twist direction, said second twist direction being opposite to said first twist direction.
- 25                   7. A method of minimizing sags when unwinding multiple elongated elements from one single spool, said method comprising the following steps :
- 30                   a) providing a spool ;
- b) winding multiple elongated elements in parallel and in several

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windings upon said spool so that the distance between two neighboring elongated elements, as measured along a line parallel to the axis of the spool, is not more than 10 mm along 90% of the length of each elongated element.

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8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said method further comprises the following step :
- guiding the multiple elongated elements on a common pulley upstream the spool.

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9. A method according to claim 8 wherein said method further comprises the following step :
- keeping the multiple elongated elements separate from each other upstream said common pulley.

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10. A method according to claim 9 wherein said common pulley has a flat groove.

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11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said flat groove has a width being greater than the sum of the diameters of the multiple elongated elements.